

the same fair-market standard. That is essentially what the 2009 bill did.

Unfortunately, however, we've reached a legislative stalemate in which a reasonable compromise that virtually everyone agrees makes sense has become stuck. And the parties have all become locked into their positions and unwilling to make a move.

The FMRA seeks to end that stalemate by putting a new idea on the table that respects the equities and responds to the arguments of all. This bill creates an AM/FM performance right, to match the digital right that already exists in law. This would jumpstart meaningful private negotiations for all.

The FMRA's solution for royalty setting is the one the broadcasters have called for: let the market decide. But it also provides equal rights and bargaining power to both sides by allowing recording artists to reject offers they find unacceptable—something they currently cannot do under the copyright laws because the compulsory license requires them to make their music available. To implement this free market approach, the bill would repeal the existing compulsory license.

Internet radio says it pays too much, that the current "willing buyer, willing seller" standard results in rates that are too high. Under this bill, they may negotiate any rates they can. While Congress will establish a right, it will get out of the business of essentially establishing a price for that right. The value of music will be determined by the market.

There are of course many useful features of the current system that we should retain. Radio services have been able to use the compulsory licensing as one-stop licensing, allowing them to get access to any music they wish to use at an established price. To preserve that convenience to radio, the bill empowers broadcasters, and rights holders with SoundExchange as their agent, to collectively negotiate a one-stop licensing rate that will be available to all. Broadcasters and music creators are also free to negotiate separately alternative arrangements on top of those back-stop terms.

Current law also contains critical protections for artists requiring that they receive a statutorily mandated fair share of performance royalties and that those royalties be paid directly to them through SoundExchange. The bill retains those requirements.

In 2009, we hoped all stakeholders could reach an agreement that would end the years of waiting for fair pay for airplay. This proposal makes it in everyone's interest to reach such an agreement.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,433,470,635.61. We've added \$6,111,556,421,722.53 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 492, I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues may be aware, September 2013 is National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month. This month gives us a valuable opportunity to call attention to this issue and what we can do to support people living with spinal cord injuries.

There are approximately 270,000 people living with spinal cord injuries in the United States. In particular, an estimated 100,000 of those people are veterans who sustained a spinal cord injury while serving as members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Approximately 12,000 new spinal cord injuries occur in the U.S. each year. In fact, every 48 seconds in our country, a person becomes paralyzed. A majority of these injuries occur from work-related accidents, motor vehicle accidents, sports injuries and falls.

The impact of spinal cord injuries is felt throughout our society. The estimated lifetime medical cost of a spinal cord injury can range from \$1 million to \$5 million, depending on the level of injury, and the ripple effects can be felt throughout other sectors, such as housing, job training and transportation.

Increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals with spinal cord injuries. Better treatments, therapies and access to the right equipment and services can go far toward both improving their quality of life and ultimately finding a cure for these injuries.

Throughout this month, awareness efforts have been taking place across the country to highlight the need to expand and build support for programs and initiatives that help people with spinal cord injuries.

I thank everyone who has participated in this month's activities, and I applaud the dedication of local, regional and national organizations, as well as the researchers, physicians, volunteers and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals and their families living with spinal cord injuries.

My hope is that we not only continue to make progress in this field, but that we also take every opportunity to elevate this issue and work toward finding solutions to help these thousands of people. I hope my colleagues will all join me in recognizing National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.

HONORING MRS. BERTHA N. GODFREY

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bertha N. Godfrey. Mrs. Godfrey retired from her position as senior vice president of the Philadelphia Tribune on July 31st after working for the paper for 67 years.

With 129 years of service, the Philadelphia Tribune is the Nation's oldest continuously published African American newspaper and has employed Mrs. Godfrey for over half of its existence. Throughout her nearly seven decades of employment with the newspaper, Mrs. Godfrey rarely missed a day of work, totaling up to approximately 17,500 plus days. Mrs. Godfrey has been described as an anchor and a historian for the newspaper, serving four different presidents of the paper from 1946 until 1980. At 92 years of age she continues to be a vibrant and dedicated character in the lives of those around her and will be sorely missed at the Philadelphia Tribune.

I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mrs. Godfrey for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District and the Philadelphia Tribune. May we all learn from her legacy of hard work, commitment, and passion.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 487, I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ON THE PASSING OF MR. KENNETH EDWARD BENTSEN

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2013*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the legacy of the father of a dear friend. Our colleague, the former Member of Congress who represented large parts of the district I have the honor of representing today, Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr. lost his beloved father this past week. Ken's father was also the brother of the late former Senator, and Treasury Secretary, Lloyd Bentsen, Jr.

Kenneth Edward Bentsen died Tuesday morning, September 24, 2013 in Houston, Texas. Mr. Bentsen was a prominent architect in Houston spanning over four decades. He was married to the former Mary Dorsey Bates for 60 years, who survives him.

He attended the School of Architecture at the University of Texas, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. In his sophomore year, he enlisted in the Naval Air Corps.